



JPW

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tomoaki HATTORI

Group Art Unit: 2854

Application No.: 10/642,205

Examiner: E. Eickholt

Filed: August 18, 2003

Docket No.: 116878

For: TANDEM IMAGE FORMING DEVICE WITH REDUCED FOOTPRINT

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the July 2, 2004 Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Species Group A, Figures 1-4, with traverse. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-16 are readable on Group A.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DEB/tbh

Date: July 29, 2004

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